

## MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council and Department Heads met in regular session on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

### PRESENT

Percy J. Purnell, Jr., Mayor  
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President Elect  
Raymond D. Anderson, Councilman  
Kimberly B. Lawson, Councilman  
Mike Atkins, Councilman Elect  
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman  
Robin Cockey, City Solicitor  
Mike Tabor, Chief of Police  
Noah Bradshaw, Inspector  
Harold W. Frock, Superintendent of Public Utilities/Works

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Michael Sullivan; Kyle Hildreth; Irving Saltz; Austin Cox, Sr., Richard Crumbacker; Liz Holland; Randy Laird; Eddie Heath; Norman Smith; Margo Green-Gale; Lamount M. Potter, Sr.; Ronald Sterling, Jr.; Robert Hooks and Austin Mason.

### OATH OF OFFICE

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Ted Phoebus, Clerk of the Court for Somerset County, administered the Oath of Office to incumbents-elect Council Vice President LaVerne Johnson and Councilman Mike Atkins.

### PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Mayor Purnell called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### MAYOR FYI

Mayor Purnell commented about the incident in Scranton, P.A., where all of the City employees were reduced to minimum wage. He commented that only 496 tax payers that live in Crisfield own their

own home. Mayor Purnell commented that next to Easton, we have the lowest taxes on the Eastern Shore. He added that by raising taxes 1 cent, it would net the City \$35K and that the City can't be run better without more money. He also commented that there are no grants to pave streets.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Purnell made reference to corrections on page 2, 4 and 5. At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 13, 2012 with the necessary corrections. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

MIKE TABOR, CHIEF OF POLICE, presented his monthly performance and activity report. He asked for the public's help in the recent Captain Tyler's robbery and shooting investigation. Chief Tabor briefed on the incident and advised that CPD would give business escorts for bank drops if requested. Following his report, Chief Tabor introduced new patrolman Mark Hoover.

Councilman Lawson commended the department for quick reaction to the crime that had occurred.

Mayor Purnell noted that the new police officer is certified. He noted that Officer Cramer was leaving to go to Salisbury University and there is still one opening.

Mayor Purnell noted that Joyce Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, was on vacation.

HAROLD W. FROCK, SR., SUPT. OF PUBLIC UTILITIES/WORKS, presented his monthly report, highlighting its contents.

Councilman Lawson made reference to the summer youth program. Mr. Frock advised that he has been trying to keep them on roads, but there were some fulltime personnel that were on vacation.

Councilman Lawson advised Mr. Frock that he would like them to do exterior vehicle maintenance. Mr. Frock advised that he would alternate help.

Councilman Atkins commended Chief Tabor on the decrease in crime.

NOAH BRADSHAW, INSPECTOR, presented his monthly report highlighting its contents.

Mayor Purnell briefed on the recent meeting with MDE concerning the depot and mitigation.

Councilman Lawson made reference to comments made about “getting rid of Noah”.

Councilman Lawson stated that Mr. Bradshaw is charged with administering the law, adding that he appreciates the job Noah does.

#### SHERWIN WILLIAMS NEGOTIATIONS

Mayor Purnell advised that the City would have to approve the final sign-off and property tax abatement which was decided on in the 80’s. He advised that it does include the easement to the water tower. Mayor Purnell advised that the City would have to decide to move forward with the transfer of the building to Sherwin Williams Company.

Mr. Cockey advised that a motion would be needed to approve the transaction in principle, subject to refining the document.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired about the purchase price. Mayor Purnell advised that it is \$100.00. He advised that it started with a lease/purchase plan. Mr. Sullivan advised that the agreement was last modified in 2006 and they have put significant money into the building.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he feels if they get two years of taxes and personal property waived, they should pay taxes if they own the building. Mayor Purnell commented that consideration must be given whether or not 140 jobs is worth \$100K in taxes. Councilman Konapelsky

made reference to issues if they close. Mayor Purnell advised that if the jobs leave, the taxes begin. He added that they are the biggest employer in the City.

Following further discussion, Councilman Lawson commented that the Council are not qualified enough to make property arrangements with a major corporation and suggested meeting with Mr. Danny Thompson, EDC and Mr. Henry Hannah. He commented that he doesn't want to "give away the farm" but ownership comes with tax obligations as well as the consideration that they offer jobs.

Councilman Atkins commented that he doesn't feel we are "giving away the farm" but there needs to be a date established for taxes to begin.

Mayor Purnell suggested making a motion authorizing Mr. Cockey to review the lease and property exchange and bring in a real estate consultant.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to move forward with the contract and seek guidance to make an educated decision regarding taxes, in closed session. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson. During discussion, Councilman Lawson inquired if the discussion with the realtor would be closed. Mr. Cockey advised that it would be. Motion carried unanimously.

#### AT & T LEASE

Mayor Purnell reviewed the proposal from AT & T for renting antennae space on the Jacksonville Water Tower. He advised that they are proposing a reduction from \$28,882 to \$23,995 annually, as well as proposing making a yearly payment instead of monthly.

After further discussion, Councilman Lawson commented that he feels a reduction is wrong and made a motion that the 5 year contract remain as is. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky. Councilman Lawson then withdrew this motion and made a motion that there be no reduction in the

contract. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Purnell made reference to a Department of Justice Investment Request for charter changes regarding elections.

Mr. Cockey briefed on the issue, advising that it spells out what the City has done in the past. He advised that the Council could defer the Resolution and adopt Ordinance 619 for First Reader this evening, making any revisions by the next meeting.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 619 for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

#### EVENT APPLICATIONS

Mayor Purnell advised that the following Event Applications requests need to be approved; Sunday – July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Gospel Event at the depot, Wheels on the Waterfront – July 28 or August 4, Crab Derby Parade, Boat Docking and Skiff Races – Labor Day weekend, Living Hope Ministries – September 1 and 15. Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve all of the Event Applications, contingent upon proof of liability insurance. Motion seconded by Councilman Anderson and carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Irving Saltz made reference to the success of the events at the beach and inquired as to what the City is doing to move it forward. Councilman Konapelsky commented that the Beach Committee is in charge and the City assists them when they request it. Mr. Saltz suggested a line item for them in the Budget. Mr. Konapelsky commented that they are doing a great job on their own.

County Commissioner Randy Laird commented that the beach is great. He advised that the

County has four loads of sand to be delivered there on Monday.

Tina Swift made reference to issues with her property on Richardson Avenue. She stated that Wayne Howard, Asst. Supt. of Public Utilities, determined that the lines there flow back into her house. Mayor Purnell commented that the line from the house to the sewer main was done wrong.

Mrs. Swift also advised that the pipe is collapsing in the driveway where the hydrant was recently hit. Mayor Purnell advised Mrs. Swift that he would contact her this week to address her problems.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A AND REPORT

Councilman Konapelsky congratulated Council Vice President Johnson and Councilman Atkins on their re-election.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to an article stating that she should be Mayor. She advised that their success as a team is because of Mayor Purnell and decisions that are made are joint decisions, as a whole. She thanked voters for her re-election.

Councilman Lawson noted that DNR had denied the City's request for help in repairing the area on Norris Harbor Drive where the road has collapsed over the drain pipe. He advised that the City would look other places for funding. He advised that the road there is covered with metal plates.

Councilman Lawson noted that water billing per water meter readings will soon have to be addressed.

Councilman Lawson also commended the Marina and Chamber on an excellent Freedom Fest and fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Councilman Lawson made reference to businesses cooperatively advertising to bring people to the City.

Councilman Lawson commented that the City needs to build on vacant lots and needs a plan for affordable housing.

Councilman Lawson closed by stating that he would like to go back to two meetings a month in September.

Mayor Purnell commented about recent articles and added that he doesn't know how to fix business closings. He noted that there are 9 applicants for sidewalk replacement so far.

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Anderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

